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# VALLEY GAY PRESS

THE LEHIGH VALLEY & BERKS COUNTY'S  
GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL & TRANSGENDER  
COMMUNITY OPINION & NEWS PAPER

VOL. 12 NO. 1

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2009



## CIVIC THEATER PLAY FEB 20 TO MAR 8 execution of JUSTICE

Execution of Justice is the true story behind the assassinations of San Francisco Mayor George Moscone and City Supervisor Harvey Milk, the first openly gay elected official in any large American city. Their killer's sentence was on the strength of the now-infamous "twinkie defense."



## METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH LVS ANNUAL FREEDOM TO MARRY DAY CELEBRATIONS: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, COURTHOUSE ACTION FOR MARRIAGE EQUALITY, 10 AM, LEHIGH COUNTY COURTHOUSE

All are welcome to advocate for marriage equality at 5th and Hamilton Streets in Allentown. All participants receive a free purple scarf made by longtime ally and supporter Melinda Kohn. Same-gender couples are needed to apply for licenses at the courthouse. To participate in the license action contact MCCLV-info@mcclv.org, 610-709-8800

## INTERFAITH WORSHIP SERVICE, RECEPTION & DANCE, SATURDAY, FEB 14, 7 PM MCCLV 930 N. 4TH ST ALLENTOWN

All are welcome to celebrate marriage equality with a same-gender wedding, good music and dance. Bring friends and family!



## THEIR TOWN

A gay-themed comedy on gay marriage rights inspired by the classic "Our Town".

By Paula Martinac

World Premiere, Pittsburgh Pride Theater Festival  
Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre, Pittsburgh, PA, June 15, 2007

FEBRUARY 6TH - 8 PM

FEBRUARY 7TH - 2 PM

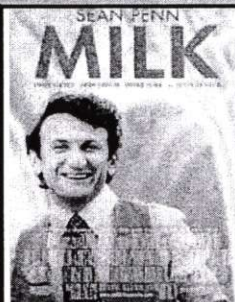
(50% of matinee proceeds to benefit TURNING POINT of Lehigh Valley)

FEBRUARY 7TH - 7 PM

TICKETS: \$15 (At The Door)

930 North 4th Street | First Floor | Allentown | PA | 18102

Produced by  
Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley



## MILK THE MOVIE 19TH ST THEATER ALLENTOWN JAN 2 TO JAN 11

## HARRISBURG FREEDOM TO MARRY RALLY WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 4:00PM DAUPHIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE FRONT AND MARKET STREETS.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: BOLTONKWINPENNY@COMCAST.NET



## COMMUNITY MOURNS BARBARA KENT-JACKSON

Barbara Kent-Jackson, passed away on Christmas day, 2008. She was the wife of Fred Jackson and was a member of MCCLV. Barbara was active in the Peace and Justice Movement and served as a foster parent to approximately 15 teenagers throughout the years. Survivors: Husband; 5 children, 10 grandchildren. She was preceded in death by a son. She is pictured at left speaking at the MCC FTM Court House Action in 2007.

## PLEASE PAY YOUR PA DIVERSITY NETWORK 2009 MEMBERSHIP DUES JUST \$20 / \$25

## TO PAY YOUR PDN DUES ON LINE!

JUST GO TO "MEMBERSHIP" AT  
WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG  
OR USE THE ENCLOSED CARD & ENVELOPE  
READ ALL ABOUT PDN &  
2008'S  
ROSES & RASPBERRIES  
ON PAGES 10 & 11

BECOME A PDN MEMBER TO RECEIVE THE VALLEY GAY PRESS IN THE MAIL, SEE PAGE 10.



## What's That About?



Readers, write or email "What's That About" editor Liz Bradbury with questions about GLBT issues.



### HUH?! TURNS OUT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZES CIVIL UNIONS ...IN AT LEAST ONE WAY

A community member contacted PDN by phone and told us that he and his partner had gotten a Civil Union in New Jersey. They live in Pennsylvania, and one of the partners wanted to change his last name to the name of the other partner. So, they took their Civil Union certificate and some other important documents like his birth certificate and they went to the Social Security office in Allentown and asked the Social Security Office to issue him a new SS card with his new last name on it...and they did!

Strengthened by this, and the fact that the gay brother of the other partner had gotten a Civil Union in New Hampshire and was able to get a new drivers license in his new name when he went back to his home state of Maine, they went to the PA Department of Motor Vehicles. The partner asked for a new driver's license that had his new "married" name on it...but the DMV said no, they would not give it to him. So they called PA Diversity Network.

Frankly, I was completely amazed that the Social Security office gave them a new card in a new name on the basis of his New Jersey Civil Union document alone. Social Security is a Federal agency, and as we all know, due to the US "Defense of Marriage Act" (DOMA), the federal government does not recognize same-sex relationships. So why was SS doing this for them? I researched it further. Please remember that I am not a lawyer, so anything stated here should not be taken as legal advice. Check everything with a real lawyer before you proceed with any legal action.

On the web site [www.lsnjlaw.org](http://www.lsnjlaw.org), that details information about all sorts of New Jersey laws, it states that one of the things a NJ Civil Union grants is the right for one or both partners to change their names. It goes on to say that Social Security in New Jersey will also change your Social Security card to your new name, if you present your Civil Union certificate. I guess the PA Social Security officials figure that you could get a new Social Security card with a new name if you lived in NJ, and then you could move to PA and your card would be valid, so they figure that they'd give it to PA citizens as well. (I am still amazed by this, however.)

Also on the [www.lsnjlaw.org](http://www.lsnjlaw.org) site it says that in New Jersey you can take your NJ driver's license and have them issue you a new one with a new name. The site seems to indicate that it is up to each state to decide if they do or do not want to issue new licenses with new names. Maine seems to do it, Pennsylvania does not. NJ does.

In all cases, they will not change your passport to a new name, unless you go through the entire process of a legal name change (which costs about \$400). Please note that changing your name on your Social Security card does not mean in any way that you will be able to get Social Security benefits from your Civil Unioned partner. And though same-sex couples can get married in CT and MA, Social Security benefits are NOT granted to same-sex married couples.

#### QUOTE

"People asking for same sex marriage are not trying to force any religious belief down anyone's throats. They are trying to prevent that from happening." - local activist Allyson Hamm

## SCOTTY IN THE CITY

By Scott Laubner



### HOW DO YOU GET TO CARNEGIE HALL?

Hello Chipmunk Readers,

When I last wrote to you it was about joining the New York City Gay Men's Chorus. The highlight of the chorus calendar is performing at Carnegie Hall in December. I was a little nervous when I showed at the corner of Seventh Avenue and 56th Street the day of the concert. 224 men and two women dropped off their stuff in the green room. One guy started talking to me. "Scott, it's your first time at Carnegie Hall. Can you believe you are gonna be on the same stage that once held Enrico Caruso, Duke Ellington, The Beatles, Benny Goodman, Luciano Pavarotti, Judy Garland..." I had to stop him and I said, "Wait, list me the list after the concert, please."

We rehearsed all afternoon. After a quick dinner we changed into our tuxedos. Each member was given a small boutonniere and an AIDS ribbon for our lapels. I was assigned to be a "mingler." My job was to go out into the house before the show and chat with audience members. When I asked people what brought them to the concert, most said they knew somebody in the chorus. But one man and his wife said they didn't know anybody in the chorus, but they had been coming for years and attending the concert was part of their holiday traditions now.

The chorus performed many beautiful pieces. Some, like Irving Berlin's "I've Got My Love to Keep Me Warm," were lighthearted. Others, like "Prayers of the Children," which was written in memory of the children of Yugoslavia killed or maimed in the latest Balkan wars, were much more serious in tone. Charles Beale, our artistic director, made special note during the concert of two special groups. PFLAG should be well known to everybody. The other association, the Ali Forney Center, is a home for homeless LGBT youth. The director of the Ali Forney Center was invited onto the stage. He announced because of the community's generosity (as well as his own) all the youth living at the eight sites around the city would wake up on Christmas and receive not just stuff they needed, like toiletries, but something special too.

As the concert neared its conclusion we sang a Kenny Loggins song, "Please Celebrate Me Home." Interspersed into the song, chorus members told some personal Christmas stories. One member said he brought his boyfriend home for Christmas for the first time and his Dad gave him a big hug. The Chorus' lesbian member told her story of dancing with her partner at a White House Christmas gathering. The concert was very well received and we will be back at Carnegie Hall next December. (Hint Hint)

### "SCOTTY IN THE CITY" ALTERNATES MONTHLY WITH "A LITTLE BIT OF HEALING" BY PHIL HEALING.

### V-DAY: THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES AT CIVIC THEATRE

Saturday, February 21, 2009 8PM - All Tickets \$17

Civic's tradition of producing Eve Ensler's *The Vagina Monologues* continues into its sixth year with the goal of further supplementing the \$25,000 already raised for Turning Point of Lehigh Valley. This affirming, yet riotously funny show, features dozens of women from all over the Lehigh Valley and your favorites from past shows are sure to be back. Presented in association with Ensler's V-Day Worldwide Campaign to stop violence against women and girls.

### TOUCHSTONE THEATRE YOUNG PLAYWRIGHTS FESTIVAL

Save the date - the 4th Annual Young Playwrights' Festival and Gala will be on May 16 at 7pm at Zoellner Arts Center. For tickets or sponsorship opportunities, please call 610-867-1689 or email [amy@touchstone.org](mailto:amy@touchstone.org).



## HOT NEWS

## HAVEN YOUTH GROUP

**HAVEN MEETINGS:** every Wednesday from 7:00 - 9:00PM at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 424 Center Street, Bethlehem. Meetings are open to GLBTAQ youth ages 14 - 20. Adult facilitator volunteers are needed for Wednesday evening meetings. Contact Pete Pellegrino [havennyouthgroup@hotmail.com](mailto:havennyouthgroup@hotmail.com) or visit Haven's Web page at [www.uucvpa.org/haven](http://www.uucvpa.org/haven).

## GLOSS EVENTS

The Gay & Lesbian Organized Sports Society (GLOSS) offers indoor & outdoor activities throughout the year. New GLBT and allied members are always welcome regardless of skill level.

The winterschedule is in effect.

**Bowling:** the 2nd Friday of the month, at 8:45pm at the Playdrome, 15th St. & Sumner Ave., Allentown. **Pinochle:** the 2nd Saturday of the month, at 7:00pm at the Moose Lounge, 28 North 10th Street, Allentown. **Racquetball:** every Thursday and Saturday, at 7:00pm at the 247 Fitness Club, Allentown.

GLOSS has an email newsletter that will keep you updated on all their events. To sign up for the newsletter go to the website.

GLOSS is always looking for people willing to be activity leaders. If your favorite activity is not listed, they will help you organize an event or outing by promoting it in the newsletter and website. Email: [Info@gloss.org](mailto:Info@gloss.org). Website: [www.gloss.org](http://www.gloss.org).

## RAINBOW AA

Rainbow AA meetings Monday and Thursdays, 7:30pm 2nd flr, Church of the Mediator - 1620 Turner St. Allentown, AA Hotline: 610-882-0558.

## LV BEARS

Lehigh Valley Bears social group meets at the Stonewall, 28 N 10th St. in Allentown, at 8 pm on the first Saturday of every month. Meet at the end of the bar under the moosehead. Bears and bear admirers, are welcome. Contact Ira Fine at: [iramfine@aol.com](mailto:iramfine@aol.com) or 610-767-7363 for information. Lehigh Valley Bears have a yahoo group <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lvbears>. See a Bears definition at PDN's web site.

## PRIDE NIGHT AT CIVIC THEATRE IN ALLENTOWN

Join Civic Theatre for a benefit performance of the play "Execution of Justice" about the murder of Harvey Milk. This special performance benefits Pride GLV and will be held on Wednesday, March 4th at 8pm. There will be a wine and cheese reception at 7pm. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased online at [www.prideglv.org](http://www.prideglv.org).

## PRIDE GLV ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 22, 7PM

Elections for 2009 Board of Directors will be held at this meeting and 2009 Pride membership must be paid in order to vote at this meeting. 2009 Pride memberships can be paid that evening or online at [www.prideglv.org](http://www.prideglv.org). Anyone interested in running for board positions for Pride should contact [sbausher@prideglv.org](mailto:sbausher@prideglv.org). The January board meeting will follow the annual meeting. All meetings are held at 1101 W. Hamilton St in Allentown.

## DIGNITY CHAPTER FOR GLBT CATHOLICS

Dignity of the Lehigh Valley gathers for worship and fellowship at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 1900 E. Pennsylvania Avenue, Allentown, PA, the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month at 6:00 PM. GLBTA Catholics and friends are welcome. Those who desire to share in Eucharist are welcome to receive the Sacraments of the Church. Please contact [dignitylehighvalley@yahoo.com](mailto:dignitylehighvalley@yahoo.com) or visit the blog at: [www.DignityLHV.blogspot.com](http://www.DignityLHV.blogspot.com).

## GLOSS BOWLING

GLOSS Bowling meets on the second Friday of the month. Ira Fine, GLOSS Bowling coordinator, must contact the bowling alley to reserve the correct number of lanes. If you are interested, please contact Ira at: [iramfine@aol.com](mailto:iramfine@aol.com), home phone: 610-767-7363 cell phone: 610-462-4786. Bowlers meet near the snack bar around 8:45 pm, and usually start to bowl around 9:00 pm, which is when the league bowlers are finished. New people are welcome and encouraged to attend. There is no competition, so you do not have to be a good bowler. GLOSS is there for fun and camaraderie with other GLBTA people.

## MUHLENBERG PLAY

Howard Barker's THE POSSIBILITIES Directed by James Peck, Shannon Fitzsimons, Aaron Lawson Original Score by Douglas Owens February 18 - 22 - Studio Theatre, Muhlenberg College

In a world torn asunder by war, terror and tyranny, how do human beings persist?

The Possibilities is a bracing work by one of Great Britain's boldest living playwrights that asks fundamental questions about living in our wounded world. This is a rare opportunity to see and hear a masterwork by one of the most adventuresome living playwrights in the world. Playwright Howard Barker delves into this urgent and timely question with fierce intelligence and surprising humor through 10 separate stories with a common theme of survival in a world of anarchic violence and unfeeling bureaucracy. Encompassing many places and periods, the stories of individuals caught in a web of war, imperialism and violence stretch from Biblical times to the present. Characters in each story are faced with choices despite the trauma and catastrophe that surround them, and each finds the courage to make unexpected decisions that count new possibilities for freedom and truth.

Tickets Online: [www.muhlenberg.edu/tickets](http://www.muhlenberg.edu/tickets) • Box office: 484.664.3333

## MUHLENBERG COLLEGE NEW GSA BOARD

Muhlenberg College GSA announces new board for 2009. Many of them have been previous GSA board members and are taking on new roles. Alex Breiding, Chris Alvaro, and Rachel Kitch will most likely be the prime contacts that community members will want to be in touch with regarding co-sponsored events, community outreach, etc. Co-Presidents: Alex Breiding '11 & Chris Alvaro '10 Vice-President: Rachel Kitch '11 Secretary: Ann Hoelscher '11 Treasurer: Sarah Illing '10 Public Relations: Will LaPlant '11 Muhlenberg Theatre Association Liaison: Rachel Brown '12 Faculty Advisor: Dr. Jeremy Teissere Ex Officio's: Adrian Shanker '09, Alex Denning '09, Kait Merritt '09

## MCC M.L. KING DAY

Sunday, January 18, MCCLV Observes Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day 10:30 AM, MCCLV, 930 N. 4th Street in Allentown. Celebrate inclusion, social justice and the beloved community at MCCLV. All welcome.



## GOBAB: GENTLEMEN OF BERKS & BEYOND

Social activities, dinners, movies, hiking, biking, fun times and get together with friends who feel the same way that you do about sharing the brotherhood of life.

Gentlemen of Berks and Beyond <http://www.myspace.com/gobab> -- MEN UNITED IN BROTHERHOOD & STRENGTH "all men are equal in voice and soul" GOBAB is a non-profit organization [http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/gentlemen\\_of\\_berks](http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/gentlemen_of_berks) PO box 13592, Reading, PA 19612, 610-670-4483, GOBAB IS NOW ON FACEBOOK.

## JOIN PDN'S FACEBOOK GROUP

## LGBTQA TEEN GROUP SPECTRUM IN READING

Spectrum is open to LGBTQ teens and their allies ages 14-18. Meetings are held every Wednesday evening from 5:30 p.m. -7:30 p.m. on the second floor of Planned Parenthood Reading's media center. Spectrum seeks adult volunteers to assist with the program. Criminal background checks, training and references are required. If you'd like to volunteer, contact sexuality educator and manager of Spectrum, Amber Brown at 610-376-0137.

**GAY & LESBIAN EPISCOPALIANS & FRIENDS**  
GLEF meets regularly at Christ Episcopal Church at 435 Court Street, Reading, PA. For info contact Dewayne Messinger through [www.berksglef.org](http://www.berksglef.org).

## READING PFLAG

Meets at 6:30pm on the THIRD TUESDAY of each month, September through May at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Reading & Berks County, 416 Franklin St. Reading. For information or to confirm scheduled meetings call: 610.858.9278. PFLAG information: call Help Line: 610-967-5219, [www.eastern-pa-pflag.org](http://www.eastern-pa-pflag.org) or e-mail: [info@eastern-pa-pflag.org](mailto:info@eastern-pa-pflag.org).

## PFLAG NEWS

PFLAG - Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays, [www.eastern-pa-pflag.org](http://www.eastern-pa-pflag.org). e-mail: [info@eastern-pa-pflag.org](mailto:info@eastern-pa-pflag.org). Meeting locations: LV - 1st Tues., 1st Pres. Church, Allentown. 610-967-5219. Reading - 3rd Tues., Unitarian Universalist Church, Reading. 610-967-5219. Monroe - 3rd Wed., New Location see web site. 570-620-1234. Pottsville - 3rd Thursday at 6:30PM, Terrence Reiley Community Building, 216 N. 12th Street, Pottsville: 570-624-3151 or e-mail [pflagpottsville@hotmail.com](mailto:pflagpottsville@hotmail.com).

PFLAG meeting dates for 2009: Allentown: 1/6, 2/3, 3/3, 4/7, 5/5, 6/2, 7/7, 8/4, 9/1, 10/6, 11/3, 12/1. Reading: 1/20, 2/17, 3/17, 4/21, 5/19, (no summer meetings), 9/15, 10/20, 11/17 (no December meeting). Monroe info: Meetings held 1st Wednesdays, monthly at Hughes Library in Stroudsburg 7pm to 9pm in the boardroom. Dates: 1/7, 2/4, 3/4, 4/1, 5/6, 6/3, 7/1, 8/5, 9/2, 10/7, 11/4, 12/2.

## BERKS GLBT RADIO SHOW

Jason Lincoln's GLBT radio show "Making Waves," is broadcast from Kutztown University every Tuesday afternoon from 4pm to 6pm on Kutztown University Radio (KUR) at 88.3 FM, throughout town at 1670 AM, throughout eastern Berks County at Service Electric Cable channel 24 or Hometown Utilicom channel 41, and streaming on-line at <http://kur.kutztown.edu/>.

PDN's Liz Bradbury is now a regular call-in guest of the show on the first Tuesday of the month, when she lets listeners know about events happening in the community. Contact Jason to find out about being a guest on his show. (see page 5)

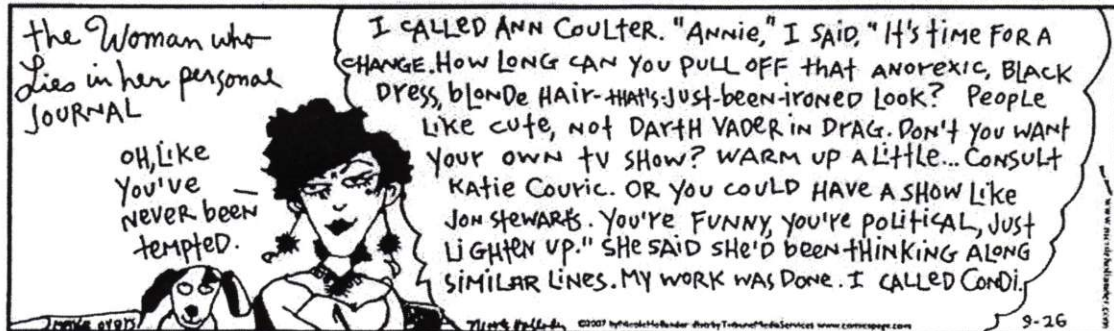
## GLBT SUPPORT GROUP BERKS COUNTY

LGBTQ Support Group at Sanctuary Counseling in Douglassville. Join this group for an affirming, confidential experience of community and support! Meets the first and third Monday of each month at 6:30PM. Services are free for these groups. Nominal donations for materials/refreshments are appreciated. Sanctuary Counseling provides affirming counseling for the LGBTQ community, and is conveniently located for clients in northern Chester, southeastern Berks, and western Montgomery counties and the Route 422 corridor. Please pre-register. 1st & 3rd Mondays 6:30pm 515 Old Swede Rd. Douglassville, Berks County. 610-385-3155 [www.sanctuarycounseling.com](http://www.sanctuarycounseling.com) VGP Drop-Off spot.



## SYLVIA BY NICOLE HOLLANDER

SYLVIA comic artist and author Nicole Hollander has graciously agreed to let Valley Gay Press feature Sylvia comics. Grateful thanks to Nicole for this swell opportunity! To see more Sylvia cartoons check the Sylvia website: [www.nicolehollander.com](http://www.nicolehollander.com).





# SOOZ VIEWS<sup>5</sup>

By Sue Sneeringer

## UPSIDE OF 2008...

"The ascendancy of Rachel Maddow to media star! As someone who has followed her since that first show on Air America, I could say I told you so, but I'm just thrilled to hear her smart, witty, progressive voice so central now to the talking head conversation. I cheered her from the start as one of us but LOVED her immediately because she so clearly and courageously took on the right wing spin and finally spun it on its head..."

"The role of 'Madame Armfeldt' in Genesius Theatre's production of A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC (thank you, Richard Bradbury). Beyond the pleasure of working with a terrific company of actors and a great crew (especially you, John), it was the chance to re-discover the joy of performing. I'm officially bitten by that acting bug again!..."

"The election of Barack Obama and someone in the White House again who believes in evolution!..."

"THE PHILLIES WIN THE WORLD SERIES. Yeah, Chase, I was right there with you when you said 'we're world champions, we're world F%\*CKING champions,' ON LIVE TV!!..."

"The pleasure of the company of Genia, Kathy, Shirley, Rose, Mel, Diann, Mary Ellen, Denise and Gary for the production of Lee Blessing's funny and heartbreaking INDEPENDENCE at Reading Community Players last spring. And, yeah, Larry F, it was good theatre at RCP, not that you'd know because you never come to see OUR work, schmuck!...The company of treasured, generous, supportive friends, especially Chris and Renae, Donna, Shirley and Tina, Laura and Anne..."

"AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY, a theatrical gem and a personal epiphany for this writer, with special nods to Tracy Letts, Deanna Dunagan and the perfection that is Amy Morton's 'Barbara'... 'Marilyn's big party'..."

"Marie's senior recital and the Rochester trip..." "The arrival of a healthy, NINE-pound Jack Ryan..."

"Ruth Martelli's stirring and accomplished performance in VESTA..."

"Getting another year out of the Camry!... GONETOO SOON: David Roberts, Scout and Liz Martelli..."

## DOWNSIDE OF 2008:

PROP 8 and other discrimination against our community..."

"The selection of Rick Warren for the coming inaugural invocation (it's NOT ok, Mr. Obama, no matter how you spin it!)"

The coming year may be one of the most challenging all Americans will ever experience. Here's hoping we find our way to unity, equality and ingenuity. HAPPY HOLIDAYS to everyone and a blessed New Year!!

## TOUCHSTONE THEATRE JANUARY EVENTS

Family Shows at Bethlehem Icehouse

Join Mock Turtle Marionette Theater and guest artists (including Touchstone!) in "Saturday's Child," which begins its twelfth season at the Ice House in Bethlehem. This delightful series consists of 13 shows, workshops and arts activities for children, families and community groups. Here's what's coming up in the next month!

Jan. 10: Book, Beast and Puppet - Mock Turtle Marionette Theater

Jan. 17: Dancing with the Honey Bees - Cliff Sunflower of Bear Honey Farms

Jan. 24: Don Quixote: Comienza la Aventura/The Adventure Begins - Touchstone Theatre

Jan. 31: Winters Tales - Lehigh Valley Storytelling Guild

All shows begin at 10 AM and are followed by a performing arts workshop! Seats may be reserved by e-mailing [doug@mockturtle.org](mailto:doug@mockturtle.org) or by calling 610-867-8208. Please leave your name, date of show and the number of attendees. These are not pre-paid reservations and must be claimed ten minutes before showtime. Admission for shows is \$5 for adults and children. Children under 2 are free. Admission for show and workshop \$7.50

## GLORA

GLORA - The Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allentown - is a social GLBT group. For details about events, email [GLORA@dejazzd.com](mailto:GLORA@dejazzd.com) GLORA is a non-profit, social group for men and women, singles or couples. Everyone welcome!

**The organizers of the GLORA events announce:** GREETING GLORA friends; as we approach the New Year, we're hoping that a lot of our members are ready, willing and able to participate in some of our upcoming events.

## V-DAY AT KUTZTOWN

Kutztown University presents Eve Ensler's "The Vagina Monologues" on Thursday, February 12, and Friday, February 13, 2009, at 7 p.m. in Schaeffer Auditorium.

Produced by the KU student group, Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance, and the KU Women's Center, "The Vagina Monologues" is in keeping with the mission of V-Day, an international movement founded by Ensler. The official website for V-Day states that it was devised as a way to "stop violence against women and girls." It also states that, "V-Day is a spirit: We believe women should spend their lives creating and thriving rather than surviving or recovering from terrible atrocities."

Each year, V-Day focuses on a particular spotlight. This year, the focus is "Stop Rape: Our Greatest Resource, Power to Women and Girls of The Democratic Republic of Congo." Locally, Turning Point of the Lehigh Valley and Berks Women in Crisis serve as beneficiaries for KU's presentation of "The Vagina Monologues," in addition to the V-Day spotlight.

Admission is \$5 for students with valid ID and \$10 for non-students. Get tickets at the McFarland Student Union Information Desk and at the door. For credit card ticket purchases, call (610) 683-4092. To learn more about V-Day, visit <http://newsite.vday.org/>.

## JEFFREY CLOUSER WINS AWARD

Jeffrey Clouser, Sovereign Community Banking Assistant Manager at the Lebanon Plaza office, was recently presented with the 2008 Learners Permit Award by Sovereign Bank's Office of Diversity and Inclusion during a Diversity Business Council Leadership Seminar in Boston, Mass.

The Learners Permit Award is presented to individuals who have committed at least two years of their time to the Diversity Business Council; recognize and suggest efforts towards building an inclusive workplace; demonstrate behavior that illustrates inclusion of all groups; attends and stays involved in monthly meetings; and shows commitment and contribution to integrating elements of the Diversity Strategic Plan into the company culture.

Clouser has been with Sovereign since 2005, implementing sales and marketing processes, ensuring operational integrity and coaching and training team members. In addition to his responsibilities with the bank, Clouser is involved with many groups and associations, including the Silent Witnesses of Central PA, the Pride Festival of Central PA, Common Roads and the Lancaster Symphony Chorus. He is also a member of the PDN Photo Project.



# 6 CALENDAR

**Am Haskalah**, Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation, Services at Allentown JCC at 22nd and Tilghman Streets, <http://www.jrf.org/amhaskpa>, 610-435-3775

**ACCO-A Chorus** Celebrating Women, **AIDSWALK**- see **FACT**

**BGMSG** - Berk's County Gay Men's Social Group -- singles and couples social events [berksgmsg@aol.com](mailto:berksgmsg@aol.com)

**CIVIC and 19th St.** Theater, 527 N 19th St, 610-432-8943, <[civictheater.com](mailto:civictheater.com)>

**CUUPS** --at the UUCLV. [uucv\\_cuups@yahoo.com](mailto:uucv_cuups@yahoo.com)

**Dignity** - "GLBT-friendly ministry for Catholics and their friends"- meets at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 1900 E. Pennsylvania Avenue, Allentown 2nd and 4th Sundays at 6:00 pm. [DignityLHV.blogspot.com](http://DignityLHV.blogspot.com) [Dignitylehighvalley@yahoo.com](mailto:Dignitylehighvalley@yahoo.com)

**Enigma Players** -- [qacres@prolog.net](mailto:qacres@prolog.net)  
**FACT**- Fighting AIDS Continuously Together 610.820.5519

**Gay Matter Magazine** -- **GLEE** at Air Products

**GLEF** - Gay and Lesbian Episcopalians in Berks County .Christ Episcopal Church, in Reading, 610-374-8269, [emailinfo@berksglef.org](mailto:emailinfo@berksglef.org)..

**GLORA** - Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allentown [www.glora.1colony.com](http://www.glora.1colony.com), [glora@dejaaz.com](mailto:glora@dejaaz.com)

**GLOSS** - Gay and Lesbian Organized Sports Society, [www.gloss.org](http://www.gloss.org) [info@gloss.org](mailto:info@gloss.org)

**GLOW**-at PPL

**GOBAB** -Gentlemen of Berks and Beyond [http://www.myspace.com/\\_gobab](http://www.myspace.com/_gobab) [http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/gentlemen\\_of\\_berks](http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/gentlemen_of_berks) PO box 13592, Reading, PA 19612, 610-670-4483,

**HAVEN** GLBT Youth Group of the UUCLV - call: 610-868-2153, email: [havenyouthgroup@hotmail.com](mailto:havenyouthgroup@hotmail.com)

**Integrity**- Lesbian & Gay Episcopalians Family & Friends meets quarterly. 610-758-8642 [gamba.guy@verizon.net](mailto:gamba.guy@verizon.net)

**Infoline** - Greater LV GLBT Infoline: 610-HELP123 (435-7123) M-F 6pm -9pm Office: 610-432-5449 [info@padiversity.org](mailto:info@padiversity.org)

**INTERWEAVE** -- GLBTAL group at the UUCLV. 3rd Sundays.. [Interweave\\_UUCLV@yahoo.com](mailto:Interweave_UUCLV@yahoo.com) [www.uucvpa.org](http://www.uucvpa.org) 610-866-7652.

**Kutztown Univ GLBT Radio** show "Making Waves," w/ Jason Lincoln Tuesdays 4pm-6pm in town: 88.3 FM, 1670 AM. In Eastern Berks: Serv Elec Cable 24 or Hometown Utilicom: 41.

Streaming on-line everywhere at <http://kur.kutztown.edu>

**LVGMC** -Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus, email: [info@lvmgc.org](mailto:info@lvmgc.org), <[www.lvmgc.org](http://www.lvmgc.org)> 610-366-3320, rehearsals: Tues.-Wesley United Methodist Church, 2540 Center St., Bethlehem.

**Lehigh Valley Transsexual Coalition**- 610-610-997-0976, [humanrights4all@aol.com](mailto:humanrights4all@aol.com), 610-814-0530 [JamesHalleman@aol.com](mailto:JamesHalleman@aol.com)

**LV Transmen** - 610-814-0530 [JamesHalleman@aol.com](mailto:JamesHalleman@aol.com)

**MCCLV** - Metropolitan Community Church, Lehigh Valley, 930 N 4th St., Allentown Services: 10:30 am [info@mcclv.org](mailto:info@mcclv.org) <http://www.mcclv.org> 610-709-8800

**Muhlenberg GSA** Muhlenberg College Organization 610.821.3244

**NCC** - Northampton Community College GLB Student Union, 610.861.5541 (#1386) or 610-767-0296

**19th St & Civic Theatre** - 610.432.8943

**Out There**- Students at Cedar Crest College

**PA-Diversity Network**- 610-432-5449 [www.padiversity.org](http://www.padiversity.org) PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002

# JANUARY 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 HAVEN SPECTRUM	2 RAA GLOSS 19th Street	3 GLOSS 19th Street	4 WDIY GLOSS BEARS
5 MCC GLOSS UUCLV WDIY 19th Street	6 RAA SC	7 LVGMC Kutztown LV PFLAG GLBT Radio	8 SPECTRUM 19th Street HAVEN	9 RAA GLOSS	10 GLOSS Bowling 19th Street Touchstone	11 WDIY GLOSS REN DIG
12 MCC GLORA	13 RAA	14 Kutztown GLBT Radio LVGMC	15 HAVEN SPECTRUM M PFLAG	16 RAA GLOSS P PFLAG Touchstone	17 Touchstone	18 WDIY GLOSS MCC MLK
19 GLOSS MCC WDIY UUCLV Interweave	20 RAA SC	21 R PFLAG Kutztown GLBT Radio LVGMC	22 Bride Annual MTG HAVEN SPECTRUM	23 GLOSS RAA	24 Touchstone	25 WDIY GLOSS DIGNITY
26 WDIY UUCLV GLOSS MCC CUUPS	27 RAA	28 Kutztown GLBT Radio LVGMC	29 HAVEN SPECTRUM	30 RAA GLOSS MCC	31 Touchstone	

# FEBRUARY 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 GLOSS UUCLV MCC	2 SC RAA	3 Kutztown GLBT Radio LV PFLAG LVGMC	4 HAVEN SPECTRUM	5 RAA GLOSS	6 Rainbow Players Their Town	7 BEARS WDIY GLOSS
8 GLOSS UUCLV MCC	9 RAA	10 LVGMC Kutztown GLBT Radio	11 HAVEN SPECTRUM	12 GLOSS RAA Kutztown V-DAY	13 GLOSS Bowling FREEDOM TO MARRY RALLY & CELEBRATION	14 GLOSS REN WDIY DIG
15 WDIY GLOSS MCC UUCLV Interweave 17	16 RAA SC	17 LVGMC Kutztown LV PFLAG GLBT Radio	18 HAVEN 19th St SPECTRUM	19 GLOSS RAA P PFLAG MUHLNEBERG THEATRE	20 MUHLNEBERG THEATRE CIVIC THEATRE	21 WDIY GLOSS CIVIC THEATRE
22 GLOSS MCC UUCLV MUHLNEBERG THEATRE CIVIC THEATRE	23 RAA	24 LVGMC Kutztown GLBT Radio	25 HAVEN SPECTRUM	26 RAA GLOSS MCC	27 CIVIC THEATRE	28 DIG WDIY GLOSS

# MARCH 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 MCC GLOSS UUCLV	2 RAA SC	3 LV PFLAG Kutztown GLBT Radio	4 HAVEN SPECTRUM Pride at the CIVIC THEATRE	5 RAA GLOSS	6 CIVIC THEATRE	7 GLOSS WDIY BEARS
8 MCC GLOSS UUCLV CIVIC THEATRE	9 RAA 15	10 LVGMC Kutztown GLBT Radio	11 SPECTRUM HAVEN	12 GLOSS RAA	13 GLOSS Bowling	14 GLOSS WDIY REN DIG GLOSS
16 MCC Interweave GLORA	17 RAA SC	18 LVGMC Kutztown GLBT Radio R PFLAG	19 M PFLAG SPECTRUM HAVEN	20 RAA GLOSS P PFLAG	21	22 WDIY GLOSS
23 MCC GLOSS UUCLV	24 RAA	25 LVGMC Kutztown GLBT Radio	26 HAVEN SPECTRUM	27 GLOSS RAA MCC	28	29 DIG GLOSS WDIY
30 GLOSS MCC UUCLV	31 RAA					



# MCCLV EVENTS

Friday, January 2 - Game Night and 40th Birthday "Graduation Party" 7 PM  
MCCLV, 930 N. 4th Street in Allentown  
MCCLV's 20s30s Group celebrates those who have "graduated" to age 40 in 2008. All ages welcome. Bring a game and join the fun. Contact 20s30s Leader Stephanie Schaffer for more information at 20s30s@mcclv.org

Wednesday, January 7 - Spanish Classes  
Begin - 7 PM MCCLV, 930 N. 4th Street in Allentown. Taught by Maricel Concepcion and Saadia Negron. All welcome and for more information contact Maricel Concepcion at eunuchos@mcclv.org

Sunday, January 18 - MCCLV Observes Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day 10:30 AM  
Celebrate inclusion, social justice and the beloved community at MCCLV. All welcome.

Tuesday, January 2 - "Sexuality, Orientation and Gender in the Bible" 7 PM - Wondering what the Bible does and does not say about sexuality, orientation and gender? Join a workshop led by MCCLV Pastor Beth Goudy to learn more. All welcome. To register write to rev.goudy@mcclv.org or call 610-709-8800.

Thursday, January 29 - 20s30s Group 7pm  
Looking for connection? Ages 20-39 welcome. Contact 20s30s Leader Stephanie Schaffer for info @ 20s30s@mcclv.org.

## METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH LV HAS SCHEDULED ITS ANNUAL FREEDOM TO MARRY DAY CELEBRATIONS:

Friday, February 13, Courthouse Action for Marriage Equality, 10 AM, Lehigh County Courthouse

To participate in the license action contact MCCLV at info@mcclv.org or phone 610-709-8800.

Saturday, February 14 -- Interfaith Worship Service, Reception and Dance, 7 PM -- MCCLV, 930 N. 4th Street in Allentown All are welcome to celebrate marriage equality with a same-gender wedding, good music and dance. Bring friends and family! For more information contact MCCLV at info@mcclv.org or phone 610-709-8800.



## PDN BINGO IN DECEMBER WAS ATTENDED BY 40 PLAYERS!

See Photos at padiversity.org

**PFLAG** - LV Parents Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays, 1st Tues. 1st Pres. Church Allentown 610.967.5219 www.eastern-pa-pflag.org

**Pride** - Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley, (Pride Festival) 610.770.6200, email: <info@prideglv.org>, <www.prideglv.org>

**Progressive Students Alliance** - www.lehigh.edu/~insptua/vpsa/whatsa.htm  
**Quakers**-LV Friends Meeting-Rt 512 N of Rte 22 Bethlehem, Worship 9:30am. 610-691-3411.

**RAA**- Rainbow AA meetings Monday & Thursdays, 7:30p. 2nd flr Church of the Mediator -1620 Turner St. Allentown, AA Hotline: 610-882-0558.

**Rainbow Families** - donnienearlucas@msn.com

**Ren**- Renaissance Transgender Assoc., Meets at MCCLV renlv.org

**Reading P-FLAG**- 610-967-5219

**Reading Pride** - Festival in Reading

www.readingpridecelebration.org

**SC Sanctuary Counseling**:GBT Support

Group 1st & 3rd Mondays 6:30pm 515 Old

Swede Rd. Douglassville, Berks County 610-

385-3155 www.sanctuarycounseling.com

**Safe Space**-At Lehigh U. 610.758.5973

**Spectrum** -- LGBTQA Teen Group, Planned Parenthood, 48 South 4th Street, Reading PA 610-376-0137

**UUCLV** - Unitarian Universalist Church LV, 424

Center St., Bethlehem, 18018 610.866.7652.

**VGP** - Valley Gay Press, 610.432.5449,

VGP@padiversity.org VGP PO Box 22902

Lehigh Valley PA 18002 www.padiversity.org

**Wachovia-GALEA**- Gay and Lesbian Employee

Association. Contact GALEA@Wachovia.com

## SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS:

**RAINBOW AA - MON & THURS**  
**SANCTUARY COUNSELING-**  
**1ST & 3RD MONDAY**

**LVGMC REHEARSALS - TUES**

**LV PFLAG - 1ST TUESDAY**

**READING - PFLAG 3RD TUES**

**ALLENTOWN PFLAG - 1ST TUES**

**K-TWN GLBT RADIO - TUES**

**LV HAVEN - WEDS**

**READING SPECTRUM - WEDS**

**MONROE PFLAG - 3RD WEDS**

**JAN. MARJUN SEPT. DEC ONLY**

**POTTSVILLE PFLAG - 3RD THURS**

**MCCLV 20-30'S - LAST THURS**

**MCCLV KIDS MOVIE - THURS**

**GLOSS RAC-BALL-THURS & SAT**

**GLOSS BOWLING - 2ND FRI**

**MCCLV POTLUCK- LAST SUN**

**MCCLV WEIGHT LOSS- SUNS**

**LV BEARS - 1ST SAT**

**GLOSS PINOCCHIE - 2ND SAT**

**RENAISSANCE - 2ND SAT**

**INTERWEAVE - 3RD SUNDAY**

**DIGNITY - 2ND & 4TH SUN**

**JAN 2-11 - 19TH STREET**

**JAN 10 - TOUCHSTONE**

**JAN 17 - TOUCHSTONE**

**JAN 18 - MCCLV MLK EVENT**

**JAN 22 - PRIDE ANNUAL MTG**

**JAN 24 - TOUCHSTONE**

**JAN 31 - TOUCHSTONE**

**FEB 6-7 - RAINBOW PLAYERS**

**FEB 12 - KUTZTOWN V-DAY**

**FEB 13 - MCCLV FTM RALLY**

**FEB 14 - MCCLV FTM D**

**CELEBRATION**

**FEB 18-22 - MUHLERBERG THEATRE**

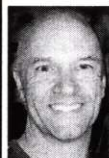
**FEB 20-MAR 8 - CIVIC THEATRE**

**FEB 21 - CIVIC THEATRE V DAY**

**MAR 4 - PRIDE@CIVIC**

**APR 16 - PENN STATE**

**MAY 16 - TOUCHSTONE**



## RANTS & RAVES BY STEPHEN T. LIBBY

### ARE YOU A GOOD QUEER OR A BAD QUEER?

With all apologies to Frank L. Baum, The Wizard of Oz and all its fans I'm going to pose a question by paraphrasing Glinda of the North: Are you a good queer or a bad queer? (the term queer as used here refers to gay men, lesbians, bisexuals, transgendered and intersexed persons, allies and those who question their sexual orientation more often than when they have a Friday drunk-on and wander into Diamondz, the Stonewall or Candida's because they are "curious"! And like most lists the following is purely subjective but that never seems to stop anyone else, so here goes. Good Queer (GQ): You rejoiced at Obama's presidential win. Bad Queer (BQ): You mourn the loss of the over rated and under criticized media whore Sarah Palin. (Got the idea?) GQ: You're mourning the loss of marriage rights in California.

BQ: You didn't know the gays could marry in CA, or worse yet, you thought we could marry in all 50 states (and Puerto Rico). Be aware. Educate yourself.

GQ: You were invited to Ellen and Portia's wedding.

BQ: You were invited to Pam Anderson & Kid Rock's wedding(s). And divorce(s).

GQ: You saw Madonna in her latest tour. We have to support our icons.

BQ: You watched Rosie's variety show. Really? Were you drunk or high?

GQ: You bought advance tickets for Milk at the Civic Theatre.

BQ: You rented Milky Way from the Adult Book Store thinking it was the prequel. GQ: You paid your PDN dues on time.

BQ: You paid \$20 in late fees for keeping Milky Way for 3 weeks.

GQ: You waited in line for hours to vote this past November.

BQ: You waited in line for hours to touch the pecs of Hugh Jorgan, star of Milky Way.

That's enough of that. At your age, you should know whether you're a good queer or not.

Now to address a question I've been hearing a lot lately; "How's the new magazine going?" To be perfectly honest, with the economy in the toilet some of our regular advertisers have shared that there isn't money to advertise right now. As a result, GayMatter is on hold until we can find enough advertisers to support a printing. If you would like to contribute or advertise please contact me at: gaymattermagazine@gmail.com. Happiest of New Year wishes to you all!!!!!! Steve





by Earl and Donnie Snyder

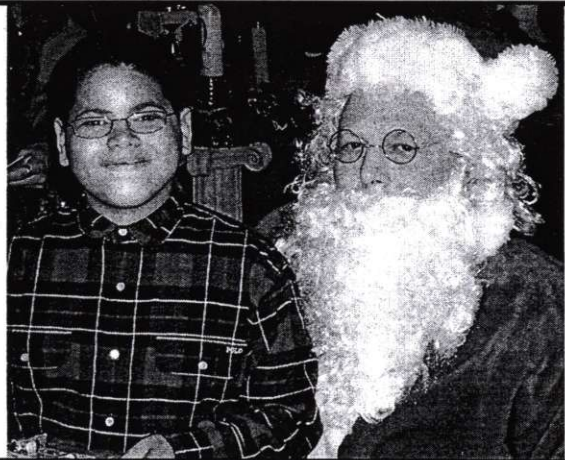
## HOLIDAY THANKS

On Saturday December 6, Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley and the PA Diversity Network hosted and co-sponsored a children's Christmas party for Rainbow Families. It was a wonderful event that was attended by a very appreciative group of (26!) children, some with their parents. Some were from the Rainbow Family group, some were from the church, and others from the neighborhood. There were arts and crafts, cookies and juice, story time, carols, a special visit from Santa Claus and his elf, and more holiday fun. All of the children had a great time participating in the activities and making new friends. Most of them didn't want the fun to end.

On behalf of the Rainbow Families group we want to thank both MCCLV and PDN for having this wonderful party. Special thanks go to Carol Stevens for organizing the whole event, to Liz Bradbury and Trish Sullivan for the bi-lingual reading of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" and Trish for her delicious cookies, to Don Kohn and Mike Vizarro for their roles as Santa and his elf, and to all of the other MCCLV ministries and members for their behind the scenes roles. And for all of the time, effort and even monetary contributions that helped to make all of this happen.

We are a most appreciative group, and thankful to all that have helped make this a very happy holiday season for our children.

**SEE AN ALBUM  
OF PHOTOS FROM THE  
RAINBOW FAMILIES  
CHRISTMAS PARTY AT  
WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG**



## RAINBOW ALLIANCE AT PENN STATE BERKS TO HOST "NOISE" CONCERT

Featuring Staceyann Chin and Kin. April 16, 2009 - 8pm.  
Contact Laurionne Solomon: les225@psu.edu, 267-918-9355  
for information.

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## Ask a "Family" Lawyer By Attorney Kate Lynn

### A LOOK BACK AT 2008 IN THE LAW

President-elect Barack Obama has chosen Pastor Rick Warren to give the inaugural invocation, a poor choice given Warren's endorsement of California's Proposition 8 which overturned California's law permitting gay marriage. However, given the McCain/Palin alternative, I am still happy with our election results.

Speaking of Proposition 8, numerous lawyers have filed amicus curiae (friend of the court) briefs in support of a petition pending before the Supreme Court of California seeking to overturn Proposition 8. The ban on gay marriage passed on November 4, 2008 by a margin of 52.3% to 47.7%. One of the recent amicus briefs was filed by lawyers on behalf of 44 state legislators arguing that Proposition 8 constitutes a change in the state constitution which discriminates against a minority group - something that requires a two-thirds vote of the legislators, not a simple majority vote. This is a novel argument, and it will be interesting to see what the California Supreme Court decides.

Those who married during the window of time that same sex marriage was legal face another hurdle. Proposition 8 sponsors have now asked the California Supreme Court to nullify the 18,000 estimated same sex marriages performed before November 4. California Attorney General Jerry Brown maintains that the ban on same sex marriage may not be applied retroactively. I believe that this position is well taken. You will read more about these cases in 2009: Strauss v. Horton, City and County of San Francisco v. Horton, and Tyler v. State of California.

We also have Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New York recognizing same-sex marriages. As of May 2008, New York will recognize the marriages of gay and lesbian couples who have wed in other states and countries. This means that New Yorkers can take advantage of the same benefits as heterosexual couples such as state tax breaks and inheritance rights. It does not, however, permit same sex couples to marry in the state.

In October 2008, a new poll conducted by Susquehanna Polling and Research showed nearly 70% of Pennsylvania voters support same sex marriage or civil unions. Clearly our state is ahead of the game when it comes to recognition for same sex couples. Lehigh Valley Hospital now provides benefits for same sex partners; hopefully St. Luke's isn't far behind. Let's see our legislators show the same recognition of same sex couples in the form of positive, progressive legislation.

Best wishes to all for a safe and joyous New Year!

Kate Lynn is a solo practitioner whose primary office is located in Allentown. Kate can be reached at (610) 435-7770 or on her website at [www.katelynnlaw.com](http://www.katelynnlaw.com). The law firm includes Kate's partner Lori and two unpaid but hard working office dogs, Crockett and Diego.

Disclaimer: The information presented herein is for information only, and should not be construed to be formal legal advice nor the formation of an attorney - client relationship. A qualified legal professional must possess full knowledge of a client's particular facts and circumstances in order to render a valid legal opinion.

### MCCLV STARTS SUNDAY SCHOOL JAN 4

MCCLV will start its Children's Sunday School program on Sunday January 4, 2009 at 9 AM. All children welcome, parents may fill out registration forms at the church. The curriculum will be "Gather 'Round," an excellent resource from the Brethren and Mennonite denominations. MCCLV's Sunday School will meet Sundays at 9 AM; call 610-709-8800 for more information.



# FAITH PAGES by Adrian Shanker

## PROP 8, SCAPEGOATING, AND MORMON BASHING

We have justifiable anger about the passage of Prop 8 in California. But I'm saddened by the rampant scapegoating related to Prop 8, which has led to protests and violence against Mormons in many parts of the country. Our anger about Prop 8 is not going to disappear anytime soon. Our community will be fighting to repeal Prop 8, and similar same-sex marriage bans around the country, for years to come. I write this article with my own anger - first, at the passage of Prop 8 and then at the reaction to Prop 8 by some in the Queer community.

There have been riots, rallies, violent threats, and more, targeting Mormons across the country. There has been an effort to strip the LDS Church of its tax-exempt status, and most recently, a fundraising scheme by the Human Rights Campaign to make money off people's poorly targeted anti-Mormon feelings.

The Human Rights Campaign spent thousands of dollars in California with the intention of defeating Prop 8 - by mainly targeting white, middle/upper-class, secular voters - largely ignoring working class communities, communities of color, and communities of faith. So while it is unfortunate that Prop 8 passed - it is important to recognize that the organization many of us trusted with our pink dollars to defeat Prop 8, spent it poorly.

Instead of targeting Mormons with threats, why not help fund Affirmation, the LGBT group within the LDS Church? Instead of donating to the largely ineffective national organization with the cool car stickers (you know, the yellow equal sign on the blue background), why not donate to groups that actually make a difference for the Queer community?

And don't forget that this is not HRC's first major mistake. We're talking about the organization that supported stripping protections for transgender employees from the Employee Non Discrimination Act; The same organization that spends the majority of its funds on issues that benefit only the wealthy elite. Once again, HRC won't take responsibility for their own mistakes - and we need to make sure that HRC does not speak for our community anymore. We already know that HRC does not speak for trans people, and that they don't speak for Queer people of color. We know that HRC doesn't really understand Queer people living in poverty, and that HRC wants to make us all "normal, just like everyone else."

No thanks, HRC! I prefer to give my hard earned cash to organizations that support Queer justice. I want my money to go to fight the Queer homeless youth epidemic; to pass a UNITED ENDA inclusive of Gender Identity, to remove Gender Identity from the DSM (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders), to teach comprehensive sex education in public schools, to educate the public about gender non-conformity, and to advance a civil rights agenda for ALL of us.

Let's not forget about the Queer-positive faith institutions in the Lehigh Valley alone (a full list is available on the PDN website) - and remember that all people of faith are not against our rights - and that SOME people of faith have a view of morality that is simply an outdated understanding of religious text (of any faith.)

There will always be religious organizations that use their faith to cloud their discrimination. This has happened throughout history with biblical justifications for slavery, segregation, patriarchy, homophobia, transphobia, heterosexism, ignoring people living with HIV/AIDS, and so much more. But we will not change those people - we will not change the stance of the Mormon Church - we CAN however, repeal Prop 8 without the Mormon Church - so end the ridiculous threats and protests against Mormons, and end the misplaced fundraising schemes by ineffective national organizations. Put money into local groups to fight for equality and together, we can repeal Prop 8, and secure our equal rights.

# VALLEY GAY PRESS

web site: [www.padiversity.org](http://www.padiversity.org)

Publisher, Managing Editor - Liz Bradbury

Publisher, Editor - Patricia Sullivan

Columnists: Liz Bradbury, Patricia Sullivan, Donnie

Snyder, Earl Snyder, Stephen Libby,

Scott Laubner, Sue Sneeringer, Adrian Shanker,

Kate Lynn, Phil Healing, AJA Lyons and others

**Valley Gay Press - The Lehigh Valley and Berks County's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Community Opinion and Newspaper (VGP)** operates as part of **Pennsylvania Diversity Network**. VGP owns the copyright to its articles and columns. No part may be reproduced without written permission of the Publisher. VGP offers free copies for direct mail and hand-out distribution to Lehigh Valley area not-for-profit organizations and businesses. The editorial columns and political cartoons that appear in the Valley Gay Press express the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion or attitude of this publication. VGP makes no indication of the sexual orientation or gender identity of persons, organizations, or businesses mentioned in any issue.

**Organizations that have VGPs for hand-out distribution:**  
**Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley**  
 1901 S. 12th Street, Allentown 610-709-8800  
**PFLAG Allentown, Reading and Pottsville** -- see meeting schedule  
**Pride House** at Muhlenberg College, Allentown  
**19th Street Theater** -- 527 N 19th St. Allentown  
**Lehigh Valley Unitarian Universalist Church (UULV)** -- 424 Center St., Bethlehem  
**Haven GLBT Youth Group** at UULV  
**10 Libraries in Berks County, Allentown Library**  
**Planned Parenthood NEPA** 48 S. 4th St. Reading  
**Easy Does It Clubhouse (Berks County), Reading Community Theatre** - 11th & Buttonwood Sts Reading  
**Allen HS GSA, Reading HS GSA, Gov Mifflin HS GSA**  
**Wilson High School GSA, Berks AIDS Network**  
**Berks Mens Social Group, Kutztown Univ GLBT Center**  
**Reading Area Community College Library**

**Businesses that have VGPs for hand-out distribution:**  
**Diamondz Nightclub** -- 1913 W. Broad St., Bethlehem  
**Stonewall Bar** -- 28-30 N. 10th St., Allentown  
**Candida's** -- 247 N. 12th St., Allentown  
**Hava Java Coffee Shop** -- N. 19th St. Allentown  
**Dreamscape Comics** -- 302 W. Broad St., Bethlehem  
**The Woods Campground**  
**Red Star Saloon** -- 11 S. 10th St. Reading  
**Sanctuary Counseling** -- 515 Old Swede Road, Douglasville

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**To Contact Valley Gay Press:**  
 Mail to: PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002  
 Phone: 610-432-5449 Email: [info@padiversity.org](mailto:info@padiversity.org)  
 To arrange for your group or organization to receive copies to distribute, contact VGP. Some restrictions apply.

**SOME PEOPLE OF FAITH HAVE A VIEW OF MORALITY THAT IS SIMPLY AN OUTDATED UNDERSTANDING OF RELIGIOUS TEXT (OF ANY FAITH.)**





## LIZ OUT LOUD 2008 ROSES & RASPBERRIES

By Liz Bradbury

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## TRISH'S COLUMN

By Patricia Sullivan



community over the last year. And we also blew a few raspberries for the negative things. Because PA Diversity Network now has its annual Awards Celebration in June, this column will be a little different. We'll be talking more about work PDN has done this year and thanking the people who worked with PDN to get that work done. But don't worry, there will still be roses and even a few raspberries, too.

**Everyday, PA Diversity Network works on advocacy for the GLBTA community.** In 2008 PDN worked on several significant GLBT discrimination cases including:

**\*A worker with severe harassment problems at her job.** PDN contacted the highest level company administrators to successfully encourage supervisors to understand and implement non discriminatory policies.

**\* School discrimination issues.** Same-sex parents whose child was being discriminated against in school received support and information from PDN.

**\*Employment candidate who felt serious discrimination.** PDN spoke directly with the highest level legal department at the company on several occasions to ensure that all employees understand the company policy against sexual orientation and gender identity discrimination.

**\*Reversal of a pro-gay policy at St. Luke's Hospital.** This issue took 6 weeks to successfully resolve. PDN spoke with many upper level officials at St. Luke's, patiently explaining how removing the term sexual orientation made GLBT people feel at risk. Employees at St. Luke's, including Carol Stevens and (PDN Board member) Earl Snyder also spoke with upper level management. Ultimately St. Luke's corrected the policy.

**\* Domestic partner benefits to same-sex partners at Lehigh Valley Hospital (the LVH's largest employer).** A multi-year effort for PDN and many employees at LVH who have worked with PDN and on their own to successfully make these benefits come true. The passage of this policy also hinged on the addition of "sexual orientation" to LVH's non-discrimination policy which PDN successfully pressed for last year. LVH's non-discrimination policy expressly includes benefits.

**READ MORE ABOUT  
ROSES AND RASPBERRIES  
& SEE PHOTOS FOR 2008  
PDN EVENTS AT  
WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG**

**PDN also works daily for your rights with many other PDN programs including:** The GLBT Infoline - PDN receives an average of a call a day to 610-Help-123 seeking help and information on discrimination issues, referrals for GLBT friendly resources like doctors and lawyers, GLBT events and general support.

**Web Site-** PDN has the largest and most comprehensive GLBT- information web site in Pennsylvania. Updated every week with the latest PDN event information and photos, it has over 300 GLBT-Friendly business and organizational resources. GLBT-Friendly groups can list for free by filling out the resource form.

**The PDN Photo Project- 300 Same-sex Couples: Facing Inequality-** An educational exhibition of 300 framed photos of local couples that advocates for legal recognition of same-sex relationships.

**Youth Initiative Program:** Gives small financial grants to GLBT youth orgs for activism efforts.

**Facebook Group:** Presents updates on PDN events and GLBT concerns and currently has over 300 friends

**Rainbow Families:** Plans social events for GLBTA families with kids.

**Valley Gay Press:** Produced each month for more than 10 years, 10 issues a year, with over 60 articles including 11 original local columns. The VGP brings community advocacy organizations a way to circulate information for free. Direct mailed to at least 700 GLBTA people each issue, and distributed to over 30 drop-off spots, 1000s of GLBTA people read the VGP throughout the year. VGP columnists include: Patricia Sullivan, Steve Libby, Scott Laubner, Sue Sneeringer, Donnie and Earl Snyder, Phil Healing, Kate Lynn, Adrian Shanker, A'Ja Lyons, and Liz Bradbury, who also edits and publishes the paper.

**PDN Board of Directors includes:** Exec. Dir: Liz Bradbury, Pres.: Patricia Sullivan, Treasurer: Jeff Faller, Secretary: Earl Snyder, Boardmembers: Amy Smart, Adrian Shanker, Donnie Snyder. Committee Leaders: Jeff Faller (Bingo), Carol Stevens (Kids Christmas Party), Patricia Sullivan (Membership), Laura Gutierrez (Awards Celebration), Adrian Shanker (Youth Initiative), Anne Huey (5K Team Captain), Earl and Donnie Snyder (Rainbow Families).

**In 2008, PDN presented or participated in over 30 major events.** PDN thanks these hosts, volunteers & organizers:

\*\*\* "I Love Lucy to Death" fundraiser for PDN at Diamondz - Lenora Johnson

\*\*\* PDN Photo Project at Congregation Keneseth Israel for the multicultural event during Martin Luther King week. KI organizers, Director Judy Murman, Rabbi Rob Lennick

**Freedom to Marry Day MCCLV Court House Action and Celebration - (The PDN Photo Project featured at the event.) MCCLV Congregation, Choir, PFLAG, and Rev Beth Goudy**

\*\*\*MCCLV Dedication  
\*\*\*Bucks County Community College - Display of PDN's Photo Project and civil rights presentation. Jim Fillman

\*\*\*Photo Project and civil rights presentation at the **Pennsburg Quaker Meeting House.** Jim Fillman

\*\*\*PDN in Panzee Press - Panzee COO Bolton Winnepenny for his extraordinary coverage of the Photo Project, and for far reaching organizing efforts.

\*\*\*Spectrum Youth Group - PDN presentation on GLBT civil rights. Amber Brown.

\*\*\*Musical "Zanna Don't" fundraiser night at Muhlenberg College. Muhlenberg College GSA, Adrian Shanker and Chris Alvaro.

\*\*\* Sisterhood Extravaganza - Wonderful drag fundraiser for PDN, GLV Pride and FACT. Thanks to the talents of more than 20 local drag performers. Matt Shook and Jerry Schmidt.

\*\*\*Presentation: Reading Community College class on GLBT rights

\*\*\*Book Release - MCCLV for hosting this event

\*\*\*Woods Campground Book Reading - Dawn McDermott for this community fundraiser to fight breast cancer

\*\*\*Skye Lounge Reading - Kim Gregory for this PDN fundraiser opportunity

\*\*\*Wachovia Bank in Philadelphia - PDN GLBT Civil Rights presentation

\*\*\*Estate Planning at Stone Crab - Amy Smart for this educational event that benefitted both PDN and GLV Pride

\*\*\*PA Diversity Network Awards Celebration - First Annual PDN Awards celebration for local community activists. Brewworks and Jeff DeAngelis, all the great and generous contributors (see list @ padiversity.org) and event committee chair Laura Gutierrez...and the awards winners themselves!

\*\*\*PDN's Rainbow Families Summer party at Emmaus Park

\*\*\*Reading Pride Celebration - PDN Booth: Rick Spangler and the Reading Pride Board

\*\*\*GLV Pride in the Park - PDN Booth: Shawn Bausher and the GLV Pride Board for this great event.

\*\*\*Magic Words Pledge Drive - Which fought the anti-gay protesters and raised money for GLBT organizations using the protestors words: PDN, Pottsville PFLAG, and Muhlenberg College GSA -



# ROSES & RASPBERRIES

CONTINUED

thanks to Marc Frelig, Adrian Shanker, Silent Witnesses, Allan Berger, Blaise Liffick, Shawn Bausher of Pride, volunteers who counted the words, and all the contributors.

\*\*\*Rainbow Rose in Lancaster: PDN Photo Project show - Organizer Barry Russell.

\*\*\*Kutztown University LGBT Radio Show - PDN participation: Radio show host Jason Lincoln

\*\*\*Pottsville PFLAG - PDN presentation on GLBT civil rights & book reading. Pottsville PFLAG leader Marc Frelig.

\*\*\*5K Classic to fight breast cancer. PDN Team Captain Anne Huey, Patricia Sullivan for the team breakfast, volunteers Donna Cruciani and Judy Arendt and the whole team for a great event!

\*\*\*Muhlenberg College book reading - Muhlenberg College Library, GSA & English Department

\*\*\*Gary Gaugler and Steve Libby's Party to benefit the Center for Animal Welfare. Gary and Steve for letting PDN be part of this event.

\*\*\*Rally Against Proposition 8 - Organized by PDN, MCCLV and Muhlenberg College's GSA. Rev. Beth Goudy and Adrian Shanker

\*\*\*NPR Radio Appearance- Harrisburg NPR for asking PDN's Liz Bradbury to face-off against anti-gay rights leader Michael Greer. Hear the show at padiversity.org.

\*\*\*Reading Area Community College- Multicultural Inclusion Presentation with PDN on GLBT rights

\*\*\*Bucks County Community College presentation on Domestic Partner Benefits strategies - Jim Fillman for hosting this presentation

\*\*\*Rainbow Families / MCCLV Kids Christmas Party: MCCLV, Carol Stevens, Don and Melinda Kohn and all those who contributed to this event.

\*\*\*Bingo - Kim Mickey, Rainbow Bingo Hall, students from Emmaus High School's GSA for volunteering, and all those attending.

ROSES to all these people and also to the leaders and volunteers of all the local GLBTA community organizations that support our rights, work for the community good and contribute to the efforts of local not-for-profits. Just look through this paper to read about those groups.

PDN congratulates former raspberry recipients WDIY and Old Allentown Preservation Association that have now signed on to the VGP statement of non-discrimination. Their supportive actions this year are evidence that there can be positive change.

Alas, RASPBERRIES are in store for:

The proponents of Prop 8 and all those who voted for it. A sign at the Rally said it best: "Can we vote on your rights now?" Raspberries to the anti-gay organization funded in part by James Dobson that brought suit against the state of PA and overturned the state Hate Crimes Law on a technicality. And raspberries to Rick Warren and whomever it was on the Obama Team who invited him. Yes, it is a big deal.

St. Luke's Hospital for holding out on the DP benefits. What's that about? Why don't they support their GLBT employees? Same goes for Air Products.

Let's hope Bethlehem steps up and finally passes an anti-discrimination ordinance. How many times do we have to blow raspberries at the Christmas City?

Finally, last year, we sent out raspberries to three organizations that still hadn't signed on to the VGP anti-discrimination statement and as a result, two of them signed on...the only one left that has not signed on is Godfrey Daniels. Hope they read this...

## MEMBERSHIP FORM



Name/s \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Senior dues (over 65) \$5

☐ Individual dues \$20

☐ Family dues \$25

Please fill out this form and mail it with your check to PDN. Additional contribution

☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ other

Make checks payable to PDN.

LEHIGH VALLEY RESIDENTS MAIL TO:

PDN  
PO BOX 22902  
LEHIGH VALLEY, PA 18002

BERKS COUNTY RESIDENTS MAIL TO:

PDN  
PO BOX 242  
MERTZTOWN, PA 19539

BECOME A MEMBER OF PA DIVERSITY NETWORK  
TO GET A SUBSCRIPTION TO THE VALLEY GAY PRESS



# POP QUIZ 12

1. Gay actor Robert Reed, played the dad in this somewhat plottless yet often parodied 1988 TV reunion Christmas special. Name the special:
2. In "It's a Wonderful Life" (1946), what lesbian actor, who was later a TV grandma in a 1970s depression era drama, got a kiss from George Bailey when she asked for \$17.50 from the Savings and Loan? For extra points name the character she played on TV.
3. Sultry singer of the sexy song, "Santa Baby," and portrayer of Cat Women on Batman in the 60s \_\_\_\_\_ died on Christmas Day, 2008..
4. On December 12, Hollywood film actor \_\_\_\_\_, who also portrayed "The Minstrel," a villain on 1960s Batman, died at the age of 92. His ex-wife Eve stated in her memoir that their MGM arranged marriage was a front to cover his gay sexual orientation.
5. "Meet Me in St. Louis" (1944), featured Judy Garland singing "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas." Name the bisexual director of this film whom she later married.
6. Will and Grace dress up as characters for a theater sing along of what movie musical that Grace says is being attended by every gay man in the city.
7. In the 1947 version of The Miracle on 34th Street what is the last name of the lawyer that defends Kris Kringle?
8. Judy Garland sings the line, "So be jolly, have a holiday as GAY as holly" in the movie \_\_\_\_\_ which is a remake of "Shop Around the Corner" and a pre-make of "You've Got Mail." (Question 4 also starred in this movie.)
9. On Ellen, who did Hot Toddy turn out to be?
10. In the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas," what is given on the tenth day?

1. A Very Brady Christmas 2. Ellen Corby (Grandma Walton)  
3. Eartha Kitt 4. Van Johnson 5. Vincente Minnelli  
6. Sound of Music 7. Gaily 8. In the Good Old Summertime  
9. Pats Hilton 10. Lords A-Leaping

## QUOTE #3

"(Obama) can call the placing of a hate monger like Rick Warren on the world dais political healing or inclusiveness or any other nicety he'd like, but I call it pandering to the lowest instinct of the worst kind of politics. President Elect Obama, your victory was made possible in no small part to the votes and wallets of the gay and lesbian community along with our supporters. Turning your back on us does not make you more mainstream American. It just makes you a coward."

-Harvey Fierstein

## QUOTE #4

"I have no criticism of the President-elect in his selection of you to bring the inaugural prayer. In the past, others who prayed at U.S. inaugurations were no more friendly or accepting of our community. ...I think President-elect Obama is attempting to fulfill his promises by reaching out in many directions as he begins his awesome task of leading our nation in this time of unprecedented challenges.

...I want to challenge you in your journey as a bridge-builder. I would like to build a better bridge with you, particularly between you and LGBT people of faith." --  
Open letter from Rev. Nancy Wilson, Moderator, Metropolitan Community Churches to Rick Warren

We believe it would improve the quality of life in the Lehigh Valley & Berks County if all people were equally protected from unfair discrimination based upon actual or perceived: race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry or place of birth, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, family status, age, disability, or use of a guide animal, in the areas of employment, housing, and public accommodation.

PA Diversity Network

GLBT Intoline

PA-GALA

Rainbow Families

Valley Gay Press

Allentown Human Relations Commission

Safe Space of Lehigh University

PFLAG Lehigh Valley

ACCO - A Chorus Celebrating Women

GLORIA

Pride of the GLV

LV Gay Men's Chorus

NCC GLBT Student Union

The Lehigh Valley Labor Party

EQUAL! at Agere

Metropolitan Community Church LV

OutThere - Cedar Crest

9th Street Shelter Allentown

LV Community Action Committee

GLEE at Air Products

FACT

AIDS Outreach

The Unitarian Universalist Church LV

GLOSS

LEPOCO

GLSN of Dun & Bradstreet

AIDS Services Center

Theatre Outlet

Integrity - Bethlehem

The Lehigh Valley Lehigh Valley Society of Friends (Quakers)

Civic Theater

19th Street Theatre

The Latin Alliance

The Enigma Players

New Covenant Family Ministries

Properties of Merit

Allentown City Democratic Committee

Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem

Puerto Rican Cultural Alliance

LV Turning Point

Muhlenberg Theater Association

LV Crime Victims Council

Touchstone Theater

Congregation Am Hashkalah

LV Progressive Students Alliance

The Consistory of St. Peter's UCC - Allentown

United Friends School Quakertown

LV Transsexual Coalition

Lehigh Valley Transmen

GLEF (Gay & Lesbian Episcopalians & Friends)

Old Allentown Preservation Association

The Center for Animal Health and Welfare

WDIY

## PHOTO OF THE MONTH MEMBERS OF EMMAUS HIGH SCHOOL'S NEW GSA, VOLUNTEERING AT PDN BINGO



**PENNSYLVANIA DIVERSITY NETWORK  
THANKS THE UNITED WAY AND  
COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN THE  
UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN WHO  
CHOSE PDN FOR THEIR  
DESIGNATED CONTRIBUTIONS!!!**

## QUOTE #1

"Loving us is incompatible with voting for those who hate us. We are no longer a group on the outside trying to persuade people to be supportive."--**Out U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., on the LGBT movement, as quoted by Gaypolitics**

## QUOTE #2

"Your support for stripping our families of fundamental rights and protections is not an act of love; it is a profoundly harmful act. Your call for us to walk hand in hand, even as you advocate for our second-class status, is an affront to our community, demeans our common humanity, and makes a mockery of the principles of fairness and equality." -- **Statement by Darlene Nipper, Deputy Executive Director National Gay and Lesbian Task Force in a statement to Rick Warren**

## VALLEY GAY PRESS BOOK REVIEW REVIEW BY A'JA LYONS

"Ain't Gonna Be The Same Fool Twice" by April Sinclair, Harper Paperbacks

"Ain't Gonna Be The Same Fool Twice" by April Sinclair is the sequel to her novel "Coffee Will Make You Black." The story follows main character Jean 'Stevie' Stevenson as she begins college and redefines everything she thought she knew about herself. Stevie finds herself pursuing her first lesbian relationship and truly experimenting with her feelings towards women. She encounters another lesbian of color who becomes her guide to gay politics, drugs, and love-making. Her freshman year of college in the Midwest in the 1970s also finds her having to struggle with the racism that was rampant in those states in those times.

I found the book to be slightly second-rate, merely half as interesting as the previous book. Sinclair has a nice style but works little with her dramatic lesbian story line. Sinclair continues the coming-of-age plot, and writes it well, but her story is the same old same old with merely half of the flavor of the first novel.